

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph from page 22, line 22 to Page 23, line 3, as follows:

In humans, the positive acute phase reactants include the major acute phase reactants, namely, serum amyloid A (SAA) and C-reactive protein (~~CPR~~ CRP), as well as a number of minor acute phase reactants: (i) complement proteins: C2, C3, C4, C5, C9, C1 inhibitor, and C4 binding protein; (ii) coagulation proteins: fibrinogen and von Willebrand factor; (iii) proteinase inhibitors: alpha1-antitrypsin, alpha1-antichymotrypsin, alpha2-antiplasmin, heparin cofactor II, plasminogen activator inhibitor I; metal binding proteins haptoglobin, hemopexin, ceruloplasmin, manganese superoxide dismutase; and (iv) other proteins: alpha1-acid glycoprotein, heme oxygenase, ferritin, mannose-binding protein, leukocyte protein I, lipoprotein (a), lipopolysaccharide-binding protein. In humans, the negative acute phase reactants include albumin, pre-albumin, transferrin, apo A-I (apolipoprotein A-I), apo A-II (apolipoprotein A-II), HDL (high density lipoprotein), HS glycoprotein, inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor, and histidine-rich glycoprotein.